through open tendering, limited tendering, public auction etc. Some of he scrap generated by steel PSUs is also recycled by the steel plants.

(c) and (d) A number of Government Departments/Public Sector Undertakings including State Government Undertakings utilise the services of MSTC Limited in disposal of their scrap. There are, however, a number of Departments/PSUs who avail of the services of other agencies to dispose of their scrap. The varety of scrap generated, its magnitude and varied uses make it difficult to prescribe a standard set of measures for efficient use of scrap. However, to the extent possible, "recycling" as also conversion of scrap into useful by-products of commercial value with the help of appropriate technology, should be adopted.

Export of Steel by Sail

1604. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that mild steel hot rolled plates have been exported by SAIL during 1992, 1993 and 1994;

(b) if so, the quantity thereof, details of middlemen involved, price per tonne charged and the international price per tonne at that time;

(c) whether as a result of low price realisation, country has suffered a huge financial loss;

(d) if so, whether Government have already ordered or would order a probe into the matter;

(e) if so, results thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The quantities, year-wise, as follows :—

Year	Quantity ('000 Tonnes)
1992	143.13
1993	299.78
1994	252.31

No middlemen were involved in these exports. The export contracts were entered into directly with the overseas buyers. In some cases the overseas buyers were represented by their Indian authorised representatives.

The price range within which the above export contracts were finalised, year-wise, are given below:

Year	Price (USD, PMT, FOB Basis)*
1992	268-310
1993	270-330
1994	275-330

There is no fixed international price. It varies from market to market and time to time based on various factors including nature of the product, foreign exchange rates of different countries, demand/ supply position in the international markets etc., over which no single country has any control. From the published data like London Metal Bulletin, Metal Bulletin etc. the then prevailing international prices were as follows:

Year	Price (USD, PMT, FOB Basis)
1992	265-315
1993	265-305
1994	270-385

(c) SAIL has not suffered any financial loss on account of these exports. These exports resulted in a positive contribution to SAIL.

(d) to (f) Do not arise in view of (c) above.

USD : US$
PMT : Per metric Tonne
FOB : Free on Board

Modernisation of IISCO

1605. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry in response to a Global Tender has finalised the modernisation package of IISCO and sent it to Finance Ministry for necessary approval;

(b) if so, the response from the Finance Ministry in this regard;

(c) how long it will take to initiate modernisation of the Plant; and

(d) the present status of IISCO modernisation?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) to (d) Indian Iron & Steel Co. Ltd. (IISCO) was referred to BIFR in June, 1994. In August, 1996, SAIL has invited offers for participation in the revival/ modernisation of IISCO through a joint venture arrangement with SAIL retaining majority share-holding 51% in the joint venture company. SAIL has received offers from two parties viz. M/s. Tyazhpromexport (TPE) of Russia and M/s. Mitsui of Japan. M/s. Mitsui have since indicated their unwillingness for equity participation which is an essential requirement for selection of Joint Venture Partner. Consequently at present there is only one offer available for revival of IISCO. M/s. TPE have since informed SAIL that they require extension of three months time for submission on their Revival Plan. Consequently, SAIL have sought extension of time for a further period of 4 months from the BIFR.

As IISCO has been referred to the BIFR, any scheme to be taken up for modernisation will have to be in accordance with the order of the BIFR in this regard.

Suggestions of Nitish Sengupta Committee

1606. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Nitish Sengupta Committee made any suggestion to increase steel exports;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant accepted any of these recommendations to increase steel exports; and

(d) if so, details of such steps taken by Visakhapatnam Steel Plant?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL & MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) to (d): Report of the Expert Group headed by Shri Nitish Sengupta on export of Iron and Steel has been received recently. Salient findings of the expert group are given in the annexure. The Government have yet to take final view on the recommenations of the Expert Group, (given below as a statment).

Statement

Salient Findings of The Expert Group on Export of Iron and Steel

India's steel efforts started in a significant way in 1992-93 Exports further peaked in 1993-94. In the last few years, India has also emerged as an exporter of pig iron and DRI.

After the Liberalisation in economic policy v in the areas of investment, distribution, pricing and trade, the steel sector has not only shown desired results through increased production, capacity utilisation, new investment but also in significant increase in export.

In spite of a general forecast of a not so favourable enlargement of the global